

Webster Historical Society

The Quantity Consumed.

The pumping records of the water company show that during the year ending March 31, 1907, they pumped 227,350,164 gallons; of which total pumping the Railway Co. took 78,100,000 gallons at 5c per thousand, leaving the city to consume 149,190,164 gallons for which the people paid \$14,579.00 or 9 and 4-5 cents per thousand gallons. The water company prospered and declared and paid dividends of \$5,000.00, or over eleven per cent. During the five months of that summer of 1905, from April 1st to Sept 1st, the people used 82,286,804 gallons, which was all consumed under the flat house rates and ten-dollar lawn rate. During the same five months of 1907, when the water company was compelling by unlawful exactions the payment of 30 cents per thousand, the people only used 47,536,170 gallons, for which they paid more than for the 82,286,804 gallons of the year before. But the company has the effrontery to use the consumption of the summer of 1907 as the basis of its contention, claiming it as the normal consumption. If the water company had received 16c for what the people used in the year ending March 31, 1907, (149,190,164 gallons), their dividend would have been \$12,500 instead of the \$5,000.00 actually earned. If the consumption of the present year ending March 31, 1908, be only in the proportion of the five months compared above, it will total 86,530,295 gallons. At 16c this will total \$13,844.84, which is within \$735.00 of what they received the year before for the 149,190,164 gallons, and has required \$2,700.00 less of coal to pump, thereby putting the company to the good \$1,965.00 above the year before.

There is no doubt that the normal consumption of water in McCook is 150 millions of gallons per year, and increasing yearly with the growth of the city. Upon that quantity of water we are entitled to the best there is in it. That means municipal ownership as quickly as possible. Vote for the bonds and for Meeker as city engineer.

THE WATER CONSUMERS LEAGUE.

New Silks.

We are showing new stripes and checks, new pongees in the rough and smooth finish. New plain colored tafetas, new black tafetas and peau de soie, a complete range of colors in Jap silks, the silk muslins and the part-silk wash goods as well as the silk finished goods. We solicit your inspection. The Thompson D. G. Co. Actual cash prices.

Buried Baby Here, Monday.

The remains of the ten-months-old baby of Mr. and Mrs. G. J. Owens of Parks, Dund county, were shipped here from Benkelman on 14, Sunday, for interment, which was made on Monday morning at 8:30 o'clock in Calvary cemetery, after brief service in St. Patrick's church. Parents are employes on the Phelan property at Parks.

New Dress Skirts.

In wire voile, in chiffon Panama, in shadow striped Panama; with silk folds, with self folds; in blacks, browns, blues and grays, with a few tans, greens and reds. Prices from \$12.50 down to \$2.00. Alterations free. The Thompson D. G. Co. Actual cash values.

Peanut Social.

The Christian Endeavorers realized very satisfactorily from their "Peanut Social" in the Congregational church, Tuesday evening. They had a liberal patronage. Besides the refreshments served a literary-musical program of entertaining numbers was offered.

"They Sell Sunshine."

Yes, we have it in all colors. The best varnish stain ever made. Put some Sunshine on that old rocking chair or book case and it will look like new. For sale at Woodworth & Co.'s, Druggists.

Initial Embossed Free.

You can have your initial embossed free on fancy box paper bought at Hofers', the up-to-date dealer in stationery, souvenirs and post cards. Always patronize the old reliable.

Pneumonia Claimed Little One.

James, the five-months-old baby boy of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Arnold, died on Tuesday, of pneumonia. Remains were buried in Riverview cemetery, Wednesday morning.

Heatherbloom Petticoats \$2.25

in black, brown, navy, copenhagen blue, red, green and gray. The genuine Heatherbloom, nicely made and only \$2.25. The Thompson D. G. Co.

For Sale Cheap.

A high-grade, five-passenger automobile. Enquire of H. L. KENNEDY, McCook, Neb.—3-20-2ts.

French Lawns 25c, 50c, 75c at The Thompson D. G. Co. Actual cash value.

Apples \$1.25 per box. White House Grocery. Ask Scott about it. Fone 30.

The Cost of Electric Light.

The cost to manufacture it, and not the price to consumers. The latter varies according to the ability to work the different towns and cities. McCook has been worked heretofore for 20c until recently the company made a play for sympathy by coming down to 18c. Chicago is now readjusting her rates to about 8c. Hastings, Nebraska, with its own plant, has a rate of 8 and 1-10c. A portion of Kansas City, Mo., is supplied by a private plant (the Hall plant) at from 3c to 7c according to quantity consumed.

What it costs to produce electric current is another matter and one not talked about as often as rates. The company that sold and put in the gas engine that runs the generators for the McCook Electric Light Co. will enter into a written contract and guaranty to install machinery to generate current for less than one cent per kilowatt per hour, for which the company charges us consumers 18c. Gen'l Hale, the chief owner of the plant, has written a public letter in which he seeks to pose as a benefactor to the people of McCook for charging them only 15c for what he manufactures at a cost for labor and fuel of less than one cent. It may be that the Gen'l doesn't come at it so cheap as that owing to lack of capital to proceed properly, or for other reasons, but it can be done, as witness the letter of the Weber Gas Engine Co. printed elsewhere in this paper. What we consumers want is municipal ownership for the benefit of all the people instead of private ownership for the benefit of Gen'l Hale. Vote for water and light bonds and for Meeker for city engineer.

THE WATER CONSUMERS LEAGUE.

Musicians of Merit.

That was a too-small, but genuinely appreciative audience in the Methodist church, Monday evening, to hear the Kirksmith concert.

The young ladies—four—who compose that company of worthwhile entertainers are pretty, lady-like, well-gowned and enthusiastically, wholesomely artistic in soul and substance.

They gave a program of music varied as to instrumentation, with enough of vocal excellence to make you uncertain of which you desired the more. The musical menu was for the most part of the classic order—with a predominating light and human strain throughout.

The young ladies are entitled to a large and cultured hearing anywhere.

Painting Days.

There is no economy in putting off painting. Paint protects and preserves. Added to these most important qualities of paint is that of beautifying. There're plenty of chances to display one's taste in selecting colors nowadays, because durable paints may be secured in every conceivable color, shade and tint. If your house needs painting the longer you put off painting the more it will cost you. It will take more paint and more time to apply it than at the present time. Paint this spring.

L. W. McCONNELL, Druggist.

Beautiful White Waists.

In all-over embroidery, in net, in soft muslins, in lawns, in more substantial checked and dotted white waistings, in silk. With 3-quarter sleeves, with full length. Buttoning in front or in back. Some with detachable jabot fronts. Price from \$5.00 down to \$1.00. The Thompson D. G. Co.

For \$147.20

you can fence a quarter section hog tight with American fence, sold by McCook Hardware Co., and raise hogs one cent per pound cheaper than by the dry lot and scoop shovel method.

Supreme Court Calendar.

Red Willow county has two cases in the supreme court which will be called for hearing on April 7th:
Lee vs. City of McCook.
Hess vs. Dodge.

Get Cheaper Water

by using good hose. Our hose comes direct from the factory. We can give it to you in any color and every piece guaranteed; all going at a special low price. McCOOK HARDWARE CO.

Summer Suits.

Children's play suits—combination suits—washable—the same that others ask 50c for, our price 39c. The Thompson D. G. Co. Actual cash prices.

Apples \$1.25 per box. White House Grocery. Ask Scott about it. Fone 30.

Harness of all kinds and collars that are made to use, all of the best style and workmanship at McCook Hardware Co.'s.

It is no small matter to decide on the patterns you may wish to use in preparing your home this spring. We can give you great aid at our store by showing you our new line and late styles. It's a pleasure for us to do so. Call and see us. WOODWORTH & CO.

Final Notice.

In obedience to the ruling of the postoffice department, after this week's issue of THE TRIBUNE, no paper will be sent to any subscriber who is more than one year delinquent in his subscription. This is our final notice to any and all who owe for one year and over. Those who desire to continue as readers of the paper must pay up to at least the beginning of the present year, and the subscription for the current year must be paid within the year. This is the order of the government and must be obeyed.

THE TRIBUNE will obey the order.

As soon as practicable, after April 1, 1908, all delinquent subscriptions remaining unpaid will be placed in the hands of our collection agency for settlement.

Is It a Square Deal?

TO THE PEOPLE OF McCOOK:

If a town has no electric lighting plant and private capital cannot be raised to install one, there is some reason to try a municipal plant and take the chances on its changing, political and generally incompetent management. But when private parties have invested their money in providing such an enterprise, expended most of their earnings and a large amount of additional cash in extending and improving it, are earnestly using their best efforts to give good service and treatment at reasonable rates, and are barely earning fair interest on their capital; is it right for the municipality to destroy or cripple such an investment, with no advantage that cannot be better obtained by reasonable co-operation with the private company?

We bought the McCook Electric Light Co. from a citizen of McCook, paying a fair price for it, and immediately expended several thousand dollars installing additional machinery, extending the lines and putting up larger wires to give better pressure, furnished more meters, and reduced the rates. In 1906, we put in another boiler, engine and generators, reinforcing and extending the lines, and adding meters, to take care of the increasing load. Last fall a gas producer, engine and electric generators, of the latest and best type were installed, giving with the steam plant, ample power with better economy, and permitting further reduction in rates. In fact, since the purchase of the plant in 1903, we have more than trebled its generating capacity, correspondingly extended and increased the size of the wires, installed over ten times as many meters, generally improved the service, and reduced the rates.

A day service for light, heating appliances, fans and meters for miscellaneous purposes, is now under consideration, and although involving still further expenditure, will be started if the additional business will barely pay the expense.

We have always aimed and usually succeeded in giving good and improving service, which from an extended knowledge of other plants, is as good or better than most lighting stations throughout the country. We frankly admit and regret that our service during part of last year was not what it should have been or we desired. These annoying interruptions were due partly perhaps to our fault in not sufficiently anticipating the causes; but principally to unavoidable accidents and conditions for which neither we nor our apparatus were responsible, and which might have equally occurred in the best and most modern plant. Many of the troubles were caused by storms, lightning, burning of water works, delays on coal ordered, and accidental breakages. We had at all times ample capacity of engines and generators capable of producing the best of light; but on account of the condition of the boilers (although they had sufficient rated capacity) combined with poor coal, it was some times impossible to supply enough steam to handle the increasing load. When this condition arose, I immediately went to Kansas City to purchase a large boiler to tide us over until a new gas producer and engine plant could be installed, but finding that such an outfit could be obtained immediately, ordered it, raised the necessary money from the stockholders who responded promptly, and the new plant was in operation in an exceptionally short time.

Our next desire, if municipal ownership does not prevent and we have reasonable assurance of continuance, is to erect a new power-house, replace the old machinery with the most modern and economical apparatus, improve and extend the lines to the suburbs, supply day service for power as well as light, still further reduce rates, and in short give McCook as up-to-date, efficient and economical an electric plant as any town of double the size in the country.

Before installing the new machinery last year, we expressed a desire to the City Officials to build a modern plant if not interfered with, and given an extension of our franchise which expires in two years; but could hardly afford to make such an investment without reasonable assurance of its permanence. They told us to show our good faith by making the necessary improvements, and they thought that there would be no trouble in securing a new franchise. We took them at their word, installing the new apparatus promptly and at heavy expense, in the face of general financial depression and local agitation of municipal ownership; trusting that they and the people would confirm this view and reciprocate our confidence by not destroying our investment, but giving us a chance to eventually obtain the return to which it is entitled.

All we ask is a fair opportunity and square deal.

IRVING HALE, Secretary,
McCOOK ELECTRIC LIGHT CO.

Who Is Irving Hale?

We mean the Irving Hale whose letter addressed to the People of McCook, on Municipal Ownership, appeared in last week's papers. He does not live in McCook, though he dates his letter, "McCook, Neb., March 16, 1908." He is known personally to but few of our citizens. Some of our best citizens have inquired, "who is this man Hale?" The fact is that Irving Hale is the owner of the McCook Electric Light Co. and his interest in advising the people of this town is obvious. It brings to mind the fable of Aesop about the wolf who solicitously offered to watch the sheep while the shepherd might take some needed rest. He poses as the public benefactor whose self-assumed task of operating a light plant for the people of McCook saves them from their own slackness, folly and incompetence. Mr. Hale leans over the counter and advises his customer which piece of goods to take. Mr. Hale's success in keeping down the rate of light to the low price of eighteen cents per Kw. hour, while the cost to produce it runs to the high figure of nearly one cent for the fuel and labor, prompts him to offer to continue his arduous work if by so doing his sacrifice may save McCook from the sad fate of Hastings which owns its own plant and pays its own way while supplying light for eight and one-tenth cents per Kw. hour. Noble General Hale! Let his name be writ high—but don't let his candidate for city engineer get a single vote from any citizen who desires for his family and his community the benefits these ready-plotting advisers labor to take for themselves. Vote for the bonds and for Meeker for city engineer.

THE WATER CONSUMERS LEAGUE.

The City Engineer.

His duties are important in connection with any public work. As soon as bonds are voted for a work, it becomes his duty to render to the city council an estimate of its cost, and the law prohibits the city council from letting the contract at any higher amount. If the city engineer desired to defeat the building of water and light plants, all he need do would be to fix his estimate too low for the work and that would end it; the bonds might as well not be voted. Therefore, every voter who now favors the movement for a city light and water plant will cast his vote for bonds and against Charles Kelley, whose father owns the water plant. Charlie Kelley is a bright and popular young man, but he must not be elected to the office he seeks which the water and light companies are now seeking to put him into. Vote for C. H. Meeker and the bonds.

THE WATER CONSUMERS LEAGUE.

Orchestra has Center of Stage.

At last Sunday evening's meeting in the Congregational church, the orchestra of the club had the chief part of the program under auspices of the Men's Sunday Evening club. They had a large audience and a appreciative one. The pastor spoke to the topic, "Hopeful Signs in American Life," in a vigorous, earnest fashion, and a few hymns and a vocal duet, together with the customary organ pre- and postlude made up the evening's program in total.

Well! Well! What

do you think of it—a 14-inch Lister Lay for \$1.75, sharpened and guaranteed to fit the lister for which they are intended. Moline, Western Belle, John Deere, Canton, Morrison, Rock Island, Bradley, Brown and Case. G. W. Predmore & Sons have them in stock and can get others on short notice. Shop phone 197; residence ash 3605.

New Dress Goods.

The new shadow stripes; the new light weight. Panamas in beige mixtures, in small checks, in neat stripes; the individual patterns of dressy novelties; the complete assortment of the solid colored batisties; they make it very easy for you to select your new spring dress. We invite your inspection. The Thompson D. G. Co.

Cleared a Half Hundred.

The members of J.K. Barnes post, G. A. R., assisted by the W. R. C., at their bean dinner and supper, last Saturday, cleared about \$50.00, and all parties to the event are feeling well satisfied with the result.

Pepperell Wide Sheetings 25c in the bleached 9-quarter width. Rochdale unbleached 9-quarter sheeting 23c. For actual cash prices see The Thompson D. G. Co.

Basket Social.

A basket social will be given in Perry district No. 23, school house, Friday evening, April 3, benefit of Perry B. B. team.

For Rent.

Store room, first door east of DeGross's store. Good location for any retail business.—3-20-1f. C. F. LEHN.

White Silk Hose \$1.00.

Also white lisle hose in lace 35c and 25c. Also in plain at 25c and 15c. The Thompson D. G. Co.

Peerless Carpet Warp 22c for white and 24c for colors at The Thompson D. G. Co.

Farm Loans.

Go to Johnson & Rozell.

Seeds at H. P. Waite & Co.'s.

Grass, flower, garden and field seeds at H. P. Waite & Co.'s.

Apples \$1.25 per box. White House Grocery. Ask Scott about it. Fone 30.

Rubber hose, grass seed and all lawn and garden supplies at H. P. Waite & Co.'s.

The McCook Electric Light Co. has just received a carload of poles for use in extensions and improvements to the plant.

Alaska refrigerators are insulated with pure charcoal. They preserve food perfectly. H. P. Waite & Co. sell them.

Majestic Ranges at McCook Hardware Co., are fuel savers, besides you settle the stove question when you get one of these.

Our almond and cucumber cream does just what we say, "cures sunburn, chapped hands and all roughness of the skin." WOODWORTH & CO., Druggists.

If you are going to paint, give us the dimensions of your house and let us tell you just what the material will cost. You can use mixed paint or white lead and oil, but get our prices before you paint. WOODWORTH & CO., Druggists.

Seeds at H. P. Waite & Co.'s.

A home bank, a substantial bank, and a growing bank.

THE McCOOK NATIONAL BANK

It aims to be abreast of the times and still be conservative.

It merits your confidence and invites your business whether you are a depositor or a borrower.

P. Walsh, President.
C. F. Lehn, V. Pres.
C. J. O'Brien, Cashr.

SMALL MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE.

McCConnell for drugs.

McCConnell's Balsam cures coughs.

If it's meat, you can get it at Marsh's market.

Prunes in 25-pound boxes at \$2.25 per box. Huber's.

McCConnell's Fragrant Lotion for chapped hands.

See that attractive display of Easter post cards at the Bon Ton.

Huber is still selling Wedding Breakfast Coffee. You know the brand.

Anything—everything—in spring caps. ROZELL & BARGER.

Kodaks and kodak supplies. L. W. McCONNELL, Druggist.

If it's reasonable and in his line, no use to go any farther than Marsh's meat market.

When down town eat your noonday lunch at the Bon Ton. Home cooking. Prompt service.

Do you have the blues? A dose of McCConnell's Health Granules will probably cure them.

Rozell & Barger, the leading clothiers, can have your Stetson hats reblocked for you good as new.

Wellerette cigars, sold only in drug stores, the best 5 cents will buy. For sale at Woodworth & Co.'s.

Our Colorado peas, corn, etc., are as near perfection as it is possible to approach in canned goods. Huber.

McCConnell's Concentrated Smoke is put up in 25 cent bottles and is sufficient for 150 to 200 pounds of meat.

A. G. Bump, room two over McCConnell's drug store, is agent for some of America's best insurance companies. Consult him.

McCConnell's Fragrant Lotion will keep your hands in good condition if used regularly. Fine for the face after shaving. 25c.

We have them galore—spring caps for men and boys, in all sizes, every color, latest and nobbiest styles. Come in and see them. We will please you. ROZELL & BARGER.

At the referee's sale of the Phillippi farm, last week, Messrs. Bump and Simons were the purchasers. The price for the three quarters was slightly in excess of five thousand dollars.

If you want to see all the latest and attractive things in box papers you will have to see them here. Our stock is up-to-date—containing all the new things. L. W. McCONNELL, Druggist.

Topic for C. E. meeting in Congregational church, Sunday evening, March 29th, is "Home Missions: Progress in the Philippines." Bible reference, Matt. 13:31-33. Miss Ruth Wishe, leader. All young people welcome.

If traveling men in numbers may be regarded as harbingers of reviving business, there is nothing to be desired in that respect. They are following each other so thick and fast we'll have to double track to avoid collisions.

The Sunday-school union will meet every Saturday afternoon in the Methodist church. The meeting tomorrow is for the special purpose of completing the organization, which is for the betterment of teachers' work. Four o'clock is the hour. Be present, teachers.